

## Bureau of Land Management, Interior

## § 3262.12

would significantly change your approved permit, BLM may require you to send us a new drilling permit (see 43 CFR 3261.13). A significant change would be, for example, redrilling the well to a completely different target, especially a target in an unknown area.

(b) If your changed drilling operation would cause additional surface disturbance, we may also require you to submit an amended operations plan.

(c) If immediate action is required to properly continue drilling operations, or to protect public health, safety, property or the environment, you only need BLM's verbal approval to change an approved drilling operation. However, you must submit a written sundry notice within 48 hours after we verbally approve your change.

### § 3261.22 How do I get approval for subsequent well operations?

Send us a sundry notice describing your proposed operation. For some routine work, such as cleanouts, surveys, or general maintenance (see 43 CFR 3264.11(b)), we may waive the sundry notice requirement. Contact your local BLM office to ask about waivers. Unless you receive a waiver, you must submit a sundry notice. Do not start your operations until we grant a waiver or approve the sundry notice.

## Subpart 3262—Conducting Drilling Operations

### § 3262.10 What operational requirements must I meet when drilling a well?

(a) When drilling a well, you must:

(1) Keep the well under control at all times;

(2) Conduct training during your operation which ensures your personnel are capable of performing emergency procedures quickly and effectively;

(3) Use properly maintained equipment; and

(4) Use operational practices which allow for quick and effective emergency response.

(b) You must use sound engineering principles and take into account all pertinent data when:

(1) Selecting drilling fluid types and weights;

(2) Designing a system to control fluid temperatures;

(3) Designing blowout prevention equipment; and

(4) Designing a casing and cementing program.

(c) Your operation must always comply with the requirements of 43 CFR 3200.4.

### § 3262.11 What environmental requirements must I meet when drilling a well?

(a) You must conduct your operations to:

(1) Protect the quality of surface and subsurface water, air, natural resources, wildlife, soil, vegetation, and natural history;

(2) Protect the quality of cultural, scenic, and recreational resources;

(3) Accommodate, as necessary, other land uses;

(4) Minimize noise; and

(5) Prevent property damage and unnecessary or undue degradation of the lands.

(b) You must remove or, with BLM's approval, properly store all equipment and materials that are not in use.

(c) You must retain all fluids from drilling and testing the well in properly designed pits, sumps, or tanks.

(d) When you no longer need a pit or sump, you must abandon it and restore the site as we direct you to.

(e) We may require you to give us a contingency plan showing how you will protect public health and safety, property, and the environment.

### § 3262.12 Must I post a sign at every well?

Yes. Before you begin drilling a well, you must post a sign in a conspicuous place and keep it there throughout operations until the well site is reclaimed. Put the following information on the sign:

(a) The lessee or operator's name;

(b) Lease serial number;

(c) Well number; and

(d) Well location described by section, township, range, and quarter-quarter-section.

## **§ 3262.13**

### **§ 3262.13 May BLM require me to follow a well spacing program?**

Yes, if we determine that it is necessary for proper development. If we require well spacing, we will consider the following factors when we set well spacing:

- (a) Hydrologic, geologic, and reservoir characteristics of the field minimizing well interference;
- (b) Topography;
- (c) Interference with multiple use of land; and
- (d) Environmental protection, including ground water.

### **§ 3262.14 May BLM require me to take samples or perform tests and surveys?**

(a) Yes, we may require you to take samples or to test or survey the well to determine:

- (1) The well's mechanical integrity;
  - (2) The identity and characteristics of formations, fluids or gases;
  - (3) Presence of geothermal resources, water, or reservoir energy;
  - (4) Quality and quantity of geothermal resources;
  - (5) Well bore angle and direction of deviation;
  - (6) Formation, casing, or tubing pressures;
  - (7) Temperatures;
  - (8) Rate of heat or fluid flow; and
  - (9) Any other necessary well information.
- (b) See 3264.11 for information reporting requirements.

## **Subpart 3263—Well Abandonment**

### **§ 3263.10 May I abandon a well without BLM's approval?**

No, you must have an approved sundry notice which documents your plugging and abandonment program before you start abandoning any well. You must also notify the local BLM office before you begin abandonment, so we may witness the work. Contact your local BLM office before starting to abandon your well to find out what notification we need.

### **§ 3263.11 What must I give BLM to approve my sundry notice for abandoning a well?**

Send us a sundry notice with:

## **43 CFR Ch. II (10–1–99 Edition)**

(a) All the information required in the well completion report (see 43 CFR 3264.10), unless we already have that information;

(b) A detailed description of the proposed work, including:

- (1) Type, depth, length, and interval of plugs;
  - (2) Methods you will use to verify the plugs (tagging, pressure testing, etc.);
  - (3) Weight and viscosity of mud that you will use in the uncemented portions;
  - (4) Perforating or removing casing; and
  - (5) Restoring the surface; and
- (c) Any other information that we may require.

### **§ 3263.12 How will BLM review my sundry notice to abandon my well and notify me of their decision?**

(a) When we receive your sundry notice, we will make sure it is complete and review it for compliance with the requirements of 43 CFR 3200.4. We will notify you if we need more information or require additional procedures. If we need any further information to complete our review, we will contact you in writing and suspend our review until we receive the information. If we approve your sundry notice, we will send you an approved copy once our review is complete. Do not start abandonment of the well until we approve your sundry notice.

(b) We may verbally approve plugging procedures for a well which requires immediate action. If we do, you must submit the information required in 43 CFR 3263.11 within 48 hours after we give verbal approval.

### **§ 3263.13 What must I do to restore the site?**

You must remove all equipment and materials and restore the site to BLM's satisfaction.

### **§ 3263.14 May BLM require me to abandon a well?**

Yes, if we determine your well is no longer needed for geothermal resource production, injection, or monitoring, or if we determine that the well is not mechanically sound. In either case, if you disagree you may explain to us why the well should not be abandoned.